

PEE

The daring flames *peep* in, and saw from far
The awful beauties of the sacred quire;
But since it was prophand by civil war,
Heav'n thought it fit to have it purg'd by fire. *Dryden.*

From each tree
The feather'd people look down to *peep* on me. *Dryden.*
Those remote and vast bodies were formed not merely to
be *peep* at through an optick glass. *Bentley's Sermons.*
O my mule, just distance keep;
Thou art a maid, and must not *peep*. *Prior.*
In vain his little children *peeping* out
Into the mingling storm, demand their fire. *Thomson.*

PEEP. *n. f.*
1. First appearance: as, at the *peep* and first break of day.
2. A fly look.
Would not one think, the almanackmaker was crept out
of his grave to take t'other *peep* at the stars. *Swift.*
PEEPER. *n. f.* Young chickens just breaking the shell.
Dishes I chafe, though little, yet gentle;
Snails the first course, and *peepers* crown the meal. *Bramst.*
PEEPHOLE. *n. f.* [*peep* and *hole*.] Hole through which
PEEPHOLE. *n. f.* one may look without being discovered.
By the *peephole* in his crest,
Is it not virtually confessed,
That there his eyes took distant aim. *Prior.*
The fox spied him through a *peepinghole* he had found out
to see what news. *L'Estrange.*
PEER. *n. f.* [*pair*, French.]
1. Equal; one of the same rank.
His *peers* upon this evidence
Have found him guilty of high treason. *Shakefp.*
Amongst a man's *peers*, a man shall be sure of familiarity;
and therefore it is good a little to keep state. *Bacon.*
Oh! what is man, great maker of mankind!
That thou to him so great respect do'st bear!
That thou adorn'st him with so bright a mind,
Mak'st him a king, and ev'n an angel's *peer*. *Davies.*
2. One equal in excellence or endowments.
In song he never had his *peer*,
From sweet Cecilia down to chanticleer. *Dryden.*
3. Companion; fellow.
He all his *peers* in beauty did surpass. *Fairy Queen.*
If you did move to-night,
In the dances, with what spight
Of your *peers* you were beheld,
That at every motion swell'd. *Benj. Johnson.*
Who bear the bows were knights in Arthur's reign,
Twelve they, and twelve the *peers* of Charlemagne. *Dryd.*
4. A nobleman: of nobility we have five degrees, who are all
nevertheless called *peers*, because their essential privileges are
the same.
I see thee compass with thy kingdom's *peers*,
That speak my salutation in their minds:
Hail king of Scotland! *Shakefp. Macbeth.*
King Henry's *peers* and chief nobility
Destroy'd themselves, and lost the realm of France. *Shakefp.*
Be just in all you say, and all you do;
Whatever be your birth, you're sure to be
A *peer* of the first magnitude to me. *Dryden.*
TO PEEK. *v. n.* [*By* contraction from *appear*.]
1. To come just in sight.
As the sun breaks through the darkest clouds,
So honour *peereth* in the meanest habit. *Bacon.*
Yet a many of your horsemen *peer*,
And gallop o'er the field. *Shakefp. Henry V.*
Ev'n through the hollow eyes of death
I spy life *peering*. *Shakefp.*
See how his gorget *peers* above his gown,
To tell the people in what danger he was. *Ben. Johnson.*
Hell itself will pass away,
And leave her dolorous mansion to the *peering* day. *Milt.*
2. To look narrowly; to *peer*.
Now for a clod-like hare in form they *peer*,
Now bolt and cudgel squirrels leap do move,
Now the ambitious lark with mirror clear
They catch, while he, fool! to himself makes love. *Sidn.*
Peering in maps for ports, and *peers*, and roads,
And every object that might make me fear
Misfortune to my ventures. *Shakefp. Merch. of Venice.*
PEERAGE. *n. f.* [*pair*, Fr. from *peer*.]
1. The dignity of a *peer*.
His friendships he to few confin'd;
No fools of rank or mongrel breed,
Who fain would pass for Lords indeed;
Where titles give no right or power,
And *peerage* is a wither'd flower. *Swift.*
2. The body of *peers*.
Not only the penal laws are in force against papists, and
their number is contemptible, but also the *peerage* and com-
mons are excluded from parliament. *Dryden.*
PEERDOM. *n. f.* [*peer*, Fr.] *Peerage*. *Ainsworth.*
PEERLESS. *n. f.* [*female* of *peer*.] The lady of a *peer*; a wo-
man ennobled.

PEG

Statefman and patriot ply alike the flocks;
Peers and butler share alike the box. *Pope.*
PEERLESS. *adj.* [*from peer*.] Unequalled; having no *peer*.
I bind,
On pain of punishment, the world to weat,
We stand up *peerless*. *Shakefp.*
You,
So perfect, and so *peerless*, are created
Of every creature's best. *Shakefp. Temp.*
Her *peerless* feature, joined with her birth,
Approves her fit for none, but for a king. *Shakefp.*
Helpers, that led
The starry host, rode brightest; till the moon,
Rising in clouded majesty, yalength,
Apparent queen, unveil'd her *peerless* light. *Milton.*
Such music worthiest were to blaze
The *peerless* light of her immortal praise,
Whole lullie leads us. *Milton.*
Her dress, her shape, her matchless grace,
Were all observ'd, as well as heav'nly face;
With such a *peerless* majesty the stands,
As in that day she took the crown. *Dryden.*
PEERLESSNESS. *n. f.* [*from peerless*.] Universal superiority.
PEEVISH. *adj.* [*This word Junius, with more reason than he*
commonly discovers, supposes to be formed by corruption from
perverse; *Skinner* rather derives it from *bevis*, as we say
wasps.] Petulant; waspish; easily offended; irritable;
iracible; soon angry; perverse; morose; querulous; full of
expressions of discontent; hard to please.
For what can breed more *peevish* incongruities,
Than man to yield to female lamentations. *Sidn.*
She is *peevish*, fullen, froward,
Proud, disobedient, stubborn, lacking duty. *Shakefp.*
If thou hast the metal of a king,
Being wrong'd as we are by this *peevish* town,
Turn thou the mouth of thy artillery,
As we will ours, against these saucy walls. *Shakefp.*
I will not presume
To send such *peevish* tokens to a king. *Shakefp.*
Those deserve to be doubly laugh'd at, that are *peevish*
and angry for nothing to no purpose. *L'Estrange.*
Neither will it be false or *peevish* invective to affirm,
that infidelity and vice are not much diminished. *Swift.*
PEEVISHLY. *adv.* [*from peevish*.] Angriely; querulously;
morosely.
He was so *peevishly* opinative and proud, that he would
neither ask nor hear the advice of any. *Hayward.*
PEEVISHNESS. *n. f.* [*from peevish*.] Irrascibility; querulous-
ness; fretfulness; perverseness.
Some miscarriages in government might escape through the
peevishness of others, envying the publick should be managed
without them. *King Charles.*
It will be an unpardonable, as well as childish *peevishness*,
if we undervalue the advantages of our knowledge, and neg-
lect to improve it. *Lucie.*
You may find
Nothing but acid left behind:
From passion you may then be freed,
When *peevishness* and spleen succeed. *Swift.*
PEG. *n. f.* [*pegge*, Teutonic.]
1. A piece of wood driven into a hole, which does the office of
an iron nail.
Solid bodies foreflew rain; as boxes and *pegs* of wood,
when they draw and wind hard. *Bacon.*
The teeth are about thirty in each jaw; all of them clavi-
culars or *peg* teeth, not much unlike the tusks of a mastiff.
Grew's Anatomy.
If he pretends to be choleric, we shall treat him like his
little friend Dicky, and hang him upon a *peg* till he comes to
himself. *Addison's Guardian*, N^o 108.
The *pegs* and nails in a great building, though they are but
little valued in themselves, are absolutely necessary to keep the
whole frame together. *Addison's Spectator.*
A finer petticoat can neither make you richer, more vir-
tuous or wife, than if it hung upon a *peg*. *Swift.*
2. The pins of an instrument in which the strings are strained.
You are well tun'd now; but I'll let down
The *pegs* that make this music. *Shakefp. Othello.*
3. To take a *peg* lover; to depress; to sink; perhaps from re-
laxing the cords of musical instruments.
Remember how in arms and politics,
We still have worsted all your holy tricks,
Trepann'd your party with intrigue,
And took your grandees down a *peg*. *Hudibras.*
4. The nickname of Margaret.
TO PEG. *v. a.* To fasten with a *peg*.
I will rend an oak,
And *peg* thee in his knotty entrails, 'till
Thou'st howl'd away twelve winters. *Shakefp. Temp.*
Taking the floats of the past spring, and *pegging* them
down in very rich earth, by that time twelvemonth they will
be ready to remove. *Evelyn's Kalendar.*
PELF

PEL

PELF. *n. f.* [*In* low Latin, *peltra*, not known whence derived;
peltra, in Norman, is *frumpy*.] Money; riches.
The thought of this doth pass all worldly *pel*. *Sidney.*
Hardy elf,
Thou dar'st view my direful countenance,
I read thee rash and heedless of thyself,
To trouble my still seat and heaps of pretious *pel*. *Fairy Queen.*
Immortal gods, I crave no *pel*;
I pray for no man but myself.
He call'd his money in;
But the prevailing love of *pel*
Soon split him on the former self:
He put it out again. *Dryden's Horace.*
To the poor if he refus'd his *pel*,
He us'd them full as kindly as himself. *Swift.*
PELLICAN. *n. f.* [*pelicanus*, low Lat. *pellican*, Fr.]
There are two sorts of *pelicans*; one lives upon the water
and feeds upon fish; the other keeps in deserts, and feeds
upon serpents and other reptiles: the *pelican* has a peculiar
tenderness for its young; it generally places its nest upon a
craggy rock: the *pelican* is supposed to admit its young
to suck blood from its breast. *Calmet.*
Should discarded fathers
Have this little mercy on their flesh;
'Twas this flesh begot those *pelican* daughters. *Shakefp.*
The *pelican* hath a beak broad and flat, like the slice of
apothecaries. *Hakewill on Providence.*
PELLET. *n. f.* [*from pila*, Lat. *pellet*, Fr.]
1. A little ball.
That which is fold to the merchants, is made into little
pellets, and sealed. *Sandys.*
I dress'd with little pellets of lint. *Wifeman's Surgery.*
2. A bullet; a ball.
The force of gunpowder hath been ascribed to rarefaction
of the earthy substance into flame, and so followeth a dilata-
tion; and therefore, left two bodies should be in one place,
there must needs also follow an expulsion of the *pellet* or
blowing up of the mine: but these are ignorant speculations;
for flame, if there were nothing else, will be suffocated with
any hard body, such as a *pellet* is, or the barrel of a gun; so
as the hard body would kill the flame. *Bacon.*
A cube or *pellet* of yellow wax as much as half the spirit
of wine, burnt only eighty-seven pulses. *Bacon.*
How shall they reach us in the air with those pellets they
can hardly roll upon the ground. *L'Estrange.*
In a shooting trunk, the longer it is to a certain limit, the
more forcibly the air passes and drives the *pellet*. *Ray.*
PELLETED. *adj.* [*from pellet*.] Consisting of bullets.
My brave Egyptians all,
By the disbanding of this *pelleted* storm,
Lie graveless. *Shakefp. Macbeth.*
PELLICLE. *n. f.* [*pellicula*, Lat.]
1. A thin skin.
After the discharge of the fluid, the *pellicle* must be broke.
Sharp's Surgery.
2. It is often used for the film which gathers upon liquors im-
pregnated with salts or other substances, and evaporated by
heat.
PELLITORY. *n. f.* [*parietaria*, Lat.] An herb.
The *pellitory* hath an apetalous flower, whose flower cup is
divided into four parts, which is sometimes bell-shaped like a
funnel, with four stamina or threads surrounding the pointal,
which becomes for the most part an oblong seed, surrounded
by the flower cup; to which may be added, the flowers are
produced from the wings of the leaves. *Miller.*
PELLEL. *n. f.* [*pelles melle*, Fr.] Confusedly; tumultuously;
one among another.
When we have dash'd them to the ground,
Then desie each other; and *pell mell*
Make work upon ourselves. *Shakefp. King John.*
Never yet did insurrection want
Such moody beggars, starving for a time
Of *pell mell* havock and confusion.
He knew when to fall on *pell mell*,
To fall back and retreat as well. *Hudibras.*
PELLS. *n. f.* [*pellis*, Lat.]
Clerk of the *ells*, an officer belonging to the exchequer,
who enters every teller's bill into a parchment roll called *pellis*
acceptum, the roll of receipts; and also makes another roll
called *pellis exitum*, a roll of the disbursements. *Bailey.*
PELLUCID. *adj.* [*pellucidus*, Lat.] Clear; transparent;
not opaque; not dark.
The colours are owing to the intermixture of foreign matter
with the proper matter of the stone: this is the case of agates
and other coloured stones, the colours of several whereof may
be extracted, and the bodies rendered as *pellucid* as crystal,
without sensibly damaging the texture. *Woodward.*
If water be made warm in any *pellucid* vessel emptied of
air, the water in the vacuum will bubble and boil as vehe-
mently as it would in the open air in a vessel set upon the fire,
till it conceives a much greater heat. *Newton's Opticks.*

PEN

PELLUCIDITY. *n. f.* [*from pellucid*.] Transparency; clear-
PELLUCIDNESS. *n. f.* [*from pellucid*.] Transparency; clear-
ness; not opacity.
The air is a clear and pellucid menstruum, in which the
infensible particles of dissolved matter float, without troubling
the pellucidity of the air; when on a sudden by a precipitation
they gather into visible misty drops that make clouds. *Locke.*
We consider their pellucidness and the vast quantity of light,
that passes through them without reflection. *Keil.*
PELT. *n. f.* [*from peltis*, Lat.]
1. Skin; hide.
The camels hair is taken for the skin or *pelt* with the hair
upon it. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
A scabby tetter on their *pelts* will stick,
When the raw rain has pierc'd them to the quick. *Dryden.*
2. The quarry of a hawk at torn. *Ainsworth.*
PELT-MONGER. *n. f.* [*pellis*, Lat. *pelt* and *monger*.] A dealer
in raw hides.
TO PELT. *v. a.* [*peltern*, German, *Skinner*; contracted from
pellet, Mr. Lye.] It is generally used of something thrown,
rather with teasing frequency than destructive violence.
1. To strike with something thrown.
Poor naked wretches whereof'er you are
That bide the *pelting* of this pitiless storm!
How shall your houseless heads and unfed sides,
Your loop'd and window'd raggedness defend you. *Shakefp.*
Do but stand upon the foaming shore,
The chiding billows seem to *pelt* the clouds. *Shakefp.*
No zealous brother there would want a stone
To maul us cardinal, and *pelt* pope Joan. *Dryden.*
Obscure persons have insulted men of great worth, and
pelted them from coverts with little objections. *Atterbury.*
The whole empire could hardly subdue me, and I might
easily with stones *pelt* the metropolis to pieces. *Gulliver.*
2. To throw; to cast.
My Phillis me with *pelted* apples plies,
Then tripping to the woods the wanton hies. *Dryden.*
PELTING. *adj.* This word in *Shakespeare* signifies, I know not
why, mean; paltry; pitiful.
Could great men thunder, Jove could ne'er be quiet;
For every *pelting* petty officer
Would use his heav'n for thunder. *Shakefp. Macbeth.*
Fogs falling in the land,
Have every *pelting* river made so proud,
That they have overborn their continents. *Shakefp.*
They from sheepcotes and poor *pelting* villages
Enforce their charity. *Shakefp.*
A tenement or *pelting* farm.
PELVIS. *n. f.* [*Latin*.] The lower part of the belly.
PEN. *n. f.* [*penna*, Latin.]
1. An instrument of writing.
Never durst poet touch a *pen* to write,
Until his ink were temper'd with love's sighs. *Shakefp.*
Eternal deities!
Who write whatever time shall bring to pass,
With *pens* of Adamant on plates of brass. *Dryden.*
He takes the papers, lays them down again;
And, with unwilling fingers, tries the *pen*. *Dryden.*
I can, by designing the letters, tell what new idea it shall
exhibit the next moment, barely by drawing my *pen* over it,
which will neither appear, if my hands stand still; or though
I move my *pens*, if my eyes be shut. *Locke.*
2. Feather.
The *pen* that did his pinnions bind,
Were like main-yards with flying canvas lin'd. *Fairy Queen.*
3. Wing; though even here it may mean *feather*.
Feather'd soon and fledg'd,
They summ'd their *pens*; and soaring th' air sublime,
With clang despis'd the ground. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
4. [From *pennan*, Saxon.] A small inclosure; a coop.
My father stole two geese out of a *pen*. *Shakefp.*
The cook was ordered to dress capons for supper, and take
the best in the *pen*. *L'Estrange.*
She in *pens* his flocks will fold. *Dryden's Horace.*
Ducks in thy ponds, and chickens in thy *pens*,
And be thy turkeys num'rous as thy hens. *King.*
The gather'd flocks
Are in the wattled *pen* innumerable prest'd,
Head above head. *Thomson's Summer.*
TO PEN. *v. a.* [*pennan* and *pinban*, Saxon.]
1. To coop; to shut up; to incage; to imprison in a narrow
place.
Away with her,
And *pen* her up. *Shakefp. Cymbeline.*
My heavy son
Private in his chamber *pens* himself. *Shakefp.*
The plaster alone would *pen* the humour already contained
in the part, and forbid new humour. *Bacon.*
As when a prowling wolf,
Whom hunger drives to seek new haunt for prey,
Watching where shepherds *pen* their flocks at eve